

Exhibit A**CLAIMS**

- 1.(Amended) A lid for a utility box comprising:
a member formed of plastic material and having spaced apart upper and lower sides and an outer edge,
said lower side comprising a lower surface,
a plurality of spaced apart recesses having outer edges at said lower surface which are spaced from said outer edge of said member such that said lower surface surrounds said outer edges of said recesses,
each of said recesses comprises a [concave] surface which extends from its said outer edges into said member,
the area of said lower surface being greater than the total area surrounded by said outer edges of said recesses.
- 3.(Amended) The lid of claim 1, wherein:
said outer edges of each of said recesses comprise two spaced apart elongated outer edges and two spaced apart shorter outer edges,
said elongated edges of said recesses are generally parallel with each other,
said member has a given [length]dimension along which said elongated edges of said recesses extend,
the lengths of said elongated edges of said recesses are greater than one half of said given [length]dimension of said member.
- 4.(Amended) The lid of claim 3, wherein:
said outer edge of said member is rectangular in shape and comprises a first pair of spaced apart edges and a second pair of spaced apart edges with said first pair of edges being transverse to said second pair of edges,

said elongated edges of said recesses are generally parallel with [one of said pairs]said first pair of edges of said member.

- 5.(Amended) A lid for a utility box comprising:
- a member formed of plastic material and having spaced apart upper and lower sides and an outer edge,
 - said lower side comprising a lower surface,
 - a plurality of spaced apart recesses having outer edges at said lower surface which are spaced from said outer edge of said member such that said lower surface surrounds said outer edges of said recesses,
 - each of said recesses comprises a [concave] surface which extends from its said outer edges into said member,
 - said outer edges of each of said recesses comprise two spaced apart elongated outer edges and two spaced apart shorter outer edges,
 - said elongated edges of said recesses are generally parallel with each other,
 - said member has a given [length]dimension along which said elongated edges of said recesses extend,
 - the lengths of said elongated edges of said recesses are greater than one half of said given [length]dimension of said member.

- 6.(Amended) The lid of claim 5, wherein:
- said outer edge of said member is rectangular in shape and comprises a first pair of spaced apart edges and a second pair of spaced apart edges with said first pair of edges being transverse to said second pair of edges,
 - said elongated edges of said recesses are generally parallel with [one of said pairs]said first pair of edges of said member.